

## NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,  
PROPRIETOR AND EDITOR.

OFFICE N. W. CORNER OF NASSAU AND FULTON STS.

Volume XX. No. 343

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway—Beauty and the Beast—Washington Minstrels.

NILES' GARDEN, Broadway—Secret Marriage—The Buffed—Approach.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery—The Stranger—Jealous Wife.

BURTON'S THEATRE, Chambers street—Palm Party—Tuning the Tables.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway—Little Theatre—Palm Party—The Stranger.

WOOD'S MINSTRELS, 444 Broadway—Ethiopian Minstrel.

MCKEY'S BURLESQUE OPERA HOUSE, 539 Broadway—Burlesque Opera and Musical.

ACADEMY HALL, 603 Broadway—Ethiopian Musical and Entertainment.

MECHANICS HALL, 472 Broadway—American Juvenile Singing and Vocalists.

New York, Tuesday, December 10, 1855.

The News.

By our despatches from Washington it will be seen that matters are still in an unsettled state.

The federal capital. In the Senate yesterday no business of importance was transacted. In the House of Representatives six votes were had, but no Speaker was chosen. Much "noise and confusion" was caused by the introduction of a resolution by Mr. Thibault, of Iowa, that the candidate receiving the highest number of votes, a quorum being present, should be declared elected. After considerable excitement, the resolution was withdrawn. When the confusion had subsided the voting was resumed, and Banks' vote ran up to 107, lacking but seven of an election. Whether the censuring of the friends of Banks last night succeeded in securing those seven, to-day will determine, though one of our correspondents regards him as a "dead cock in the pit."

We learn from Washington that Gov. Morierweather has succeeded in making treaties with the Indian tribes of New Mexico, and that peace and good will prevails among them. The treaties have been presented to the Senate. It is stated that the Finance report will recommend that wool and other raw materials be admitted free of duty, as a step towards free trade. Iron to remain as at present.

Yesterday was unobscurely wintry. It was cold and blustering, and heavy gusts of wind swept over the city during the day, wheeling up clouds of dust, and making the walking very disagreeable. The sky, however, was clear, and the air, though cold, was clear and bracing. Winter may be considered as having taken up its quarters permanently among us.

The summing up in the Baker case commenced yesterday, Mr. H. F. Clark addressing the jury in behalf of the accused. At the rising of the Court he had not concluded his address, but will resume this morning. Mr. Whiting will follow for the prosecution. It is hardly probable that the charge will be delivered to-day, as it is likely the entire day will be consumed by the addresses of the learned counsel. A report of yesterday's proceedings will be found in another column.

The excitement at City Island, in regard to the Bodora tragedy, still continues. A gentleman, while searching among the coal with which the vessel was loaded, came across a piece of flesh, which was pronounced to be human. It was the intention of Capt. Arnold, if permitted, to unload the entire cargo, and make a thorough search. The negro Wilson stoutly denies all knowledge of the crime, and continues to exhibit himself to visitors at a shilling a sight.

The Board of Supervisors did not organize last evening, owing to the fact that only nine members "came up to time" (Mayor Wood's) at four o'clock in the afternoon.

In the Board of Aldermen, last evening a message was received from the Mayor, calling attention to a resolution passed by the Board of Councilmen, in February last, to grove the Russ pavement in Broadway, and recommending that it be taken up and paved. The matter was referred to a select committee. Alderman Briggs introduced a resolution declaring the office of Chief of Police vacant, in consequence of ineffectuality, and requesting the Mayor to nominate a suitable person to supply the vacancy. After a rather sharp discussion, the resolution was adopted by a vote of 11 to 8.

The Board of Councilmen last night adopted a resolution authorizing the City Inspector to advertise to sell to the highest bidder the right and privilege of collecting and removing the offal of the city for the term of five years. Another attempt was made to raise the salary of Police Captains, but without success.

The Police Committee of the Legislature met again yesterday, and examined several witnesses, but did not elicit much information in addition to that already published. A report will be found elsewhere.

The new order of his Honor the Mayor changing the policemen detailed to attend upon the criminal courts once every six months, went into effect yesterday in the Court of General Sessions. Seven officers were removed, including the old chief of the Court. The object in making these changes is to prevent collusion between the officers and prisoners and the "Tombs lawyers," growing out of too great intimacy between these parties from long association together.

The Supreme Court, General Term, has granted a new trial in the case of the parties convicted at the Court of Sessions for the riots of 4th July, 1853. The decision of the General Term, in reversing the judgment of the Sessions, is grounded on the facts that the Court below erred in refusing to compel a juror to answer whether he was prejudiced or biased against Roman Catholics; and also in refusing to admit the question to a witness as to whether he belonged to the Order of United Americans, and was thus warped against the accused by the principles of his Order.

The Board of Regents of the New York University, at their last meeting elected Samuel B. Woolworth, LL. D., to fill the place made vacant by the decease of Dr. T. R. Bomeyn Beck.

The steamship Prometheus has arrived at New Orleans, with California dates to the 20th ult., but we have not received our usual synopsis of the news. The steamship Northern Light had left Punta Arenas for New York, with about \$350,000 in specie.

Captain Beaman, of the bark E. A. Rawlings, from Rio Janeiro, has forwarded us a letter of our correspondent there of October 17, in which we are informed of the rescue of a number of the sailors wrecked in the Cleopatra, by the Rawlings. The Amazon Navigation Company had forwarded another fine steamer (the fifth) to the waters of that river. Cleopatra was on the decrease at Rio, but the deaths amongst the dates and pauper population still averaged fifty a day. The shipping was healthy. A magnificent equestrian statue of Don Pedro the First was about to be erected in the city. The United States steamer Savannah had not returned from her cruise around the spot where the Cleopatra struck. Late advices from the La Plata river state that the commander of the United States steamer Water Witch had discovered a canal running between Paraná and Assumption. The coffee market was brisk, with prices a shade lower. There had been large arrivals of flour.

From Buenos Ayres we learn that, after a long diplomatic correspondence between the government and the French Minister, as to the rights of French subjects to the benefits of the thirteenth article of the French treaty, which provides that British subjects by will or testament as they may think fit, and have the right to nominate curators to take charge of the property without interference of the govern-

ment of Buenos Ayres, not admitting the alleged grounds, of its own free will and accord concedes the principle to French residents. The claim of the French Minister was founded on the treaty of 1840, which secures to French residents the privileges of the "most favored nation."

Bermuda papers of the 27th ult. announce the arrival of seven British war vessels from England and Halifax, as reinforcements to the West India squadron. One of the steamers will run as a mail boat between Halifax and Bermuda during the winter.

As far as heard from, the municipal election in Massachusetts appears to have resulted in the defeat of the Know Nothings. In Boston, Alexander H. Rice, the citizens' candidate, is elected Mayor, over Shurtleff, Know Nothing, by a majority of 1,930. A large majority of the Aldermen on the citizens' ticket are also said to be elected. In Lowell, Worcester and Newburyport, the anti-Know Nothing tickets have also been successful.

A letter from Francis P. Blair to the Republican Association of Washington City, taking strong ground against the extension of slavery over the new Territories of the United States, is given in our paper to-day. Mr. Blair is well known throughout the country as one of the editors of the Globe during the administration of Gen. Jackson.

The trial of Judge Kane, for false imprisonment, in the case of Passmore Williamson, it is stated will take place in the Philadelphia district in February next. Williamson claims \$50,000 damages, which is at the rate of \$13,333 per month, or \$3,000 per week.

The postmasters of Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York and Boston have been officially notified that an extra mail for California and Oregon will be despatched by the steamship St. Louis, which sails from Norfolk, Virginia, on the 13th instant, with the Ninth Regiment of United States Infantry. Connection will be made at Panama, on the Pacific, with the steamship Oregon, also an extra steamer, which will sail immediately for San Francisco and Oregon.

The following statement gives the period of the opening and closing of the Erie Canal, and the number of days open to navigation, for a number of years past:—

Year	Opened	Closed	Days
1844	April 18	November 26	225
1845	April 16	November 25	220
1846	April 16	November 25	224
1847	May 1	December 1	214
1848	May 1	December 9	223
1849	May 1	December 6	219
1850	April 22	December 6	225
1851	April 15	December 6	235
1852	April 20	December 15	238
1853	April 20	December 15	239
1854	May 1	December 3	217
1855	May 1	December 10	224

By the table it will be seen that the canal has been open but twice during the past twelve years later than the present one.

The cotton market was firm yesterday, with sales of about 2,500 bales. Flour was dull, and common grades closed at a decline of about 12c. a 18c. per barrel. Among the sales were about 5,000 barrels for export. Wheat was dull, and sales limited, while prices inclined to drop. Corn closed at 82c. a 5c. for inferior to good new Southern, and 90c. for old Western mixed; Southern white was sold at about \$1 01 a \$1 02. Rye was firm, and included in the sales were about 8,000 a 9,000 bushels for export. Pork was heavy, and prices at the close rather unsettled. Lard was firm; Western prime was at 12 1/2c. a 12 1/2c., and new city rendered sold at 13c. for export to California. Coffee was firm, with small sales. Sugars were firm, with moderate sales. New Orleans molasses was in good demand, at 45c. Freight was higher, and grain to Liverpool, in bulk and shipper's bags, was taken at 11d., and cotton at 1d. a 9-16d.; tierce bales at 7s. Rates were also firm for other ports.

Congress—No Speaker Yet—Banks Almost Elected—Great Excitement—Giddings comes to the Rescue.

The proceedings in Congress yesterday upon the Speakership, were decidedly interesting and promising. They were interesting as indicating the working of the fusion game, and promising, inasmuch as they foreshadowed the probable election of a Speaker to-day—perhaps Mr. Banks, perhaps somebody else.

The first trial yesterday gave Mr. Banks one hundred votes—the precise number at which he left off on Saturday—from which it would appear that nothing was done in the interval from Saturday night till Monday morning by his electing friends. Mr. Thibault, of Iowa, thereupon, on his own responsibility, (innocent man!) moved the adoption, after three more trials, of the plurality system—a motion which excited a prodigious fluttering among the uninitiated democracy and the scattering votes. But here the venerable black republican patriarch, Father Joshua R. Giddings, came to the rescue, and proved himself equal to the crisis. There was no necessity yet for a resort to the plurality alternative. He believed the feeling of the House was settling upon Mr. Banks. And so Mr. Thibault obligingly withdrew his motion.

The House then resumed their votings for a Speaker; and from what Samuel Weller the younger, would call "a very singular coincidence," Mr. Banks, on the very next trial, received 105 votes. Last other people might say, however, that the first vote was all a shy, and that Mr. Thibault's motion for the plurality dodge, and this second vote, were all cut and dried before hand by Thurlow Weed, we beg leave to say that we stick to the record, and don't care just now to look behind it.

But there is another curious circumstance in these fusion strategic movements of yesterday. It will be seen that Mr. Fuller, of Pennsylvania—the obstinate, intractable and uncompromising Fuller—started off yesterday morning with thirty-one votes; that on the second trial two of these went over to Banks; and that on the fourth another went over—but that Fuller stuck at twenty-eight. Perhaps those three deserters were decoy ducks, and their object may have been to create a stampede among the real Fuller men, and to carry them over to Banks. Thus far, the stratagem has failed. Perhaps the inflexible Fuller may have been conciliated to a surrender by the soft appliances of Thurlow Weed and Gen. Webb last night, and the sweet diplomacy of Greeley. A few hours more will tell the story, involving the election of, or, perhaps, the last vain struggle for Mr. Banks.

Still another curious fact, in looking over the several votes yesterday, is worthy of notice. On the thirty-fifth trial, when Mr. Banks received 105 votes, he lacked but eight of an election; on the thirty-seventh he wanted but five to carry him into the Speaker's chair; whereas, on the thirty-ninth trial, receiving 107 votes, he fell seven votes short of an election, from the accession of one additional vote to the whole number cast. Sticking at 107 they are "journed." We are still inclined to the opinion that should Banks stick to-day, a bold Southern conservative experiment will be made upon ex-Senator Cobb; and, from the complexion of things at the adjournment yesterday, his election is by no means an impossible event. Thus far, from the very beginning, we believe not a solitary vote has been cast for Cobb, which leads us to conclude that there is at least an understanding in the matter—that the democrats have been holding him in reserve, as their trump card, for the South-

ern whig and Know Nothing vote. The balance of power lies with Fuller. We dare say he is too conservative on the nigger question, and has gone too far in resisting the election of Campbell and Banks, to conciliate the violent black republicans, so that the alternative with Fuller's friends will be probably reduced to-day to Banks or Cobb.

The democracy of the House, thus far, have stood with a steadiness and solidity to Richardson strongly foreshadowing the national consolidation of the party in the Presidential contest. The divisions among the opposition elements show as clearly that they are still adrift.

Mr. Buchanan and His Anti-Russian Sympathies—Curious Historical Facts—The Matter Explained.

The following extract from the London Standard of February 23, last past, throws strong coloring of circumstantial evidence upon the late accusation of the London Times, to-wit:—that the American Minister near the Court of St. James, on the outbreak of the Russian war, had declared the sympathies of the United States to be with the Allies and against Russia.

[From the London Standard, Feb. 23, 1855.]

On Wednesday evening last the Novomian Society held one of its festive literary gatherings at Richardson's Hall, Covent Garden. This society, or club, so long celebrated for its quiet customs, witty devices and literary relaxation, is an offshoot from the older or parent society of antiquaries of London, and takes its name from the supposed site of the ancient Roman town of Novomian, at the Warham, Kent, with the discovery of which the founders of the Novomian Society are so closely identified. The chair was taken, in the absence of the President, by Mr. S. Carter Hall, and in addition to a numerous sprinkling of members, the Chairman was supported by the presence of the Lord Chief Baron, the American Minister, and the Lord Mayor, together with several eminent literary visitors. The usual academic formalities and singular literary toasts were much reduced on the part of the guests; and a toast from the American Minister obtained a political importance, from a glance which he took of the position of this country with reference to the Eastern question, and the direct fusion which he made to the assistance America would heartily render to the parent country in preserving the liberty of the world. The party broke up at a seasonable hour, after the enjoyment of altogether a highly interesting and intellectual evening.

It will be remembered that this accusation in vague and general terms, was lately employed by the Times as an excuse for the unlawful and offensive British enlistment proceedings of Mr. Crampton and his agents in this country; the plea of palliation being advanced upon the presumption that if the sympathies of our government and people were with the Allies, our administration would wink at the gathering up, here and there, of an individual from our loose materials, as food for Russian gunpowder in the Crimea. It will also be recollected that Mr. Buchanan, assuming addressed a note to the Times editor, warning him that he had been "misinformed" upon the subject, which note the crusty editor declined to publish. Now, this extract from the London Standard, *prima facie*, throws back the burden of proof upon Mr. Buchanan; for the time, the place, and the occasion are specified at which the aforesaid general declaration is alleged to have been made.

The question first suggested here is, can this report of the toast and remarks of Mr. Buchanan at the meeting referred to, of a year ago, be true? We see no reason to reject it as an invention. Mr. Buchanan is represented as making "a direct allusion to the assistance America would heartily render the parent country in preserving the liberty of the world." But this does not necessarily involve the tender of American sympathy against Russia in the present war. Conceding, however, that it has "an awful quivering" in this direction, we think the matter is susceptible of an easy explanation.

As between Turkey and Russia, in the beginning of this Eastern imbroglio, the sympathies of the American people and government were undeniably with the Sultan. The intervention of Russia in the Hungarian revolution—the extinction of that otherwise popular revolt by the legions of Paskewitch—the sanctuary given by the Sultan to the Hungarian refugees, at the risk of his empire—the intervention of our own people and government in behalf of Kossuth and his companions in exile—the reception of "the great Magyar" in this country; his speeches, and the ovations and subscriptions given him, by Congress and by Legislatures and corporations, throughout the Union—the Hulseman correspondence of Mr. Webster against Austria—the resolutions of General Cass offered against her in the United States Senate, proposing to cut her off from any further diplomatic intercourse with our government—all these marked and concurrent events had brought about in the United States upon the outbreak of the quarrel between Menschikoff and the Porte an almost universal feeling of sympathy for the Sultan and of antagonism to the Czar.

This feeling, though considerably softened and sobered down, was still the popular sentiment of this country upon the advent of the democratic administration of President Pierce. That his administration shared in it may be proved from his inaugural, Marcy's circulars upon costume, the Koszta case, the Koszta letter, and other facts and circumstances, one of which immediately bears upon the exact question under consideration. Some two years ago, or nearly three, a young gentleman of the name of Roger A. Pryor was attached to the editorial staff of the Union newspaper, the organ at Washington of the President and his administration. Shortly after his introduction into the office, the Union appeared one morning with a strong article, gracing its editorial columns, in support of the government and the general foreign policy and prospects of Russia, as better adapted to the "manifest destiny" of the United States than the "despotic and hostile schemes of the Western Powers, as nearly as we recollect it. This article was instantly pronounced anti-American and anti-democratic on the right hand, and on the left the responsible editor of the Union accordingly put in an apology, and, to satisfy public opinion, Mr. Pryor was dismissed from the establishment.

Now mark the change! The declaration by Lord Clarendon, in the British Parliament—that "the happy accord between England and France extended not only to the affairs of Turkey, but to the political affairs of both hemispheres"—chilled, instantly, the popular feeling for the cause of Turkey, now that these Allies, with this pledge that they also intended to regulate American affairs, had taken her cause in hand. This reaction has involved the administration; for Mr. Pryor, discharged from the Union office for his advocacy of Russia, has been latterly given a fat office under the government, by way of indemnity, and in compensation for his superior political sagacity.

We think it very likely, then, that Mr. Buchanan, a year or two ago may have expressed opinions, as did our Minister—Mr. Spence—at Constantinople, somewhat against Russia, which were then consistent with the

views of our administration, but which would now be held inadmissible in any representative of the Cabinet of Washington. "Circumstances alter cases," and republics are not exempt from the rule.

Our last Attempt at Naval Reform a Failure—Re-Organization Disorganizing.

The presentation of a petition in the United States Senate from Commodore Smith, remonstrating against the action of the Naval Board, in placing him upon the retired list, opens the ball in the campaign about to be waged in Congress, against the proceedings of the commission. However free the report of the Board might have been from the suspicion of favoritism, it would have been exposed to the imputations of the friends of those who think themselves aggrieved, but in that case the public would have rendered justice to the purity of the motives that dictated it, and would have discountenanced any attempt to impugn its decisions. With evidences, however, of a want of discrimination so glaring as to render inevitable the conclusion that zeal for the interest of the service did not, in all instances, influence the judgment of the Board, and with the significant fact that in giving it their official sanction the Secretary of the Navy and the President endorsed the report, with the strongest condemnation that could be decently pronounced upon it, the members of this immaculate commission will neither have the satisfaction of having their labors appreciated by the service nor of receiving that support from public opinion which they might otherwise have counted upon.

All the attempts that have been made to effect a reform in our naval service have, some how or other, proved unfortunate. It is not that the necessity for extensive changes in the system was ever contested; on that point all our leading politicians have been agreed. The obstacles to carrying them out seem to resolve themselves into the difficulty of devising a measure which would reconcile the claims of justice with the proper efficiency of the service. This embarrassment is not peculiar to us. It is the same in the naval and military services of other Powers. In aristocratic countries, where the nobility monopolize the higher military and naval grades, the evil of continuing upon the active list a large supernumerary staff of aged and incompetent officers must be contentedly submitted to. With us no such necessity exists. We have neither family interests to consult, nor class prejudices to overcome. We have only to make an honorable provision for those whose age and infirmities incapacitate them for service, and to compel their retirement, to render our active list what it should be—the most effective in the world. Strange to say, we have hitherto found it impossible to accomplish so simple and straightforward an arrangement. Every step that we take to effect it seems destined to be accompanied by some wholesale act of injustice and invasion of individual rights, which neutralize all the advantages that might be derived from it. Since the early days of our navy, when an imperfectly developed system produced us such splendid officers as the DeCATERS, the HALLS, and the PERRYS, we have made no real improvements in its constitution. We have, on the contrary, consecrated by misdirected efforts all its deficiencies and abuses. Satisfied with the achievements of the men who fought our naval battles in 1812, we allowed the spirit of old fogeyism to permeate through all branches of the service, from the heads of the naval department downward, and clinched the evil in 1846 by our bungling attempts to reform the evils that had resulted from such a state of things. It is now admitted that the principle of promotion by seniority can never work well in either the naval or military services, unless it be accompanied by effective provisions for the periodical weeding out of aged and infirm officers. To do this, such a retired maintenance must be accorded to the latter as will be worthy of the country and of their long services. Any other conditions of reform would only degrade the service, and render it ungrateful as a profession. We do not allude to questions of incompetency arising from moral defects, because the existing constitution of our navy provides a remedy for all such cases. Convinced of these facts from his experience of its previous attempts at re-organization, Congress endeavored in its naval bill of last session to frame a measure by which an effective and searching reform might be accomplished. There can be no doubt that the intentions of the framers of that law were good; but as the result has proved, they could not have hit upon a plan which was more likely to defeat their objects.

In the first place, the very constitution of the board was vicious, and entirely opposed to the spirit and form of our institutions. The creation of a secret tribunal to decide upon the characters and fortunes of men upon *ex parte* and hearsay evidence, and without giving them an opportunity of defending themselves, was a thing in itself so monstrous, and so entirely without precedent in a free country, that it could not but inspire general dissatisfaction. Under the most despotic governments, no such arbitrary proceedings have ever been attempted. Even the Star Chamber and the Inquisition afforded those who fell under their ban an opportunity of being heard in their defence. Not so with this republican Council of Fifteen, which promises to attain as lasting a fame as that of the celebrated Venetian Decade. They neither called the accused parties before them, nor did they trouble themselves with examining into the truth of the charges made against them. When we state that according to an accurate calculation of the time occupied in their sittings, and of the number of officers whose characters were in review before them, the time passed in the examination of each case was only thirteen minutes, we have sufficiently demonstrated the impartiality and value of their decisions.

Leaving out of view for a moment the numerous acts of individual injustice which have necessarily been committed in consequence of the hasty and superficial nature of this investigation, let us examine the net gain to the country from the labors of the commission. It will be recollected that the chief ground urged for the passage of this bill for promoting "the efficiency of the navy" was, that many of the senior officers had become worthless and unfitted for duty at sea, in consequence of having been for many years on shore and unemployed, and that the country required young, efficient and able men. Agreeably to the official registry of 1855, there were in the navy—

Captains	68	At Sea	13
Commanders	97	At Sea	25
Lieutenants	525	At Sea	125

During the administration of President Tyler a large number of nominations for promotion were sent into the Senate, which the latter refused to confirm, and a law was passed limiting the number of officers and seamen in the navy, the latter being fixed at 7,500. The reports of the Secretaries of the Navy have frequently recommended a reduction in the number of captains and commanders, there being more of those grades than the service required. The total number of vessels at sea in 1855, by the Navy Register, is forty-two, and that number cannot be increased without an additional number of seamen. The commissions now issued will make the Navy Register of 1856 contain—

Captains	98	Increase	33
Commanders	149	do	52
Lieutenants	480	do	152

The consequence of this enormous increase of officers in the navy will be, that the proportion of sea service of the respective grades will be as follows:—

Captains will be at sea	1 year in 7
Commanders do	1 year in 6
Lieutenants do	1 year in 3

We put it to Congress and the American people whether these officers, after such long periods on shore, are likely to be efficient and competent officers at sea? Would merchants and ship owners entrust the care of their vessels and cargoes to men who had been so long off duty? Would any one, in short, like to employ a lawyer, a physician, or a mechanic, who for so many years had not entered a court room, treated a patient, or worked at his trade?

But not only have the provisions of the old law limiting the aggregate of officers been violated, but we find a similar departure from the new act, as regards their aggregate pay. A clause of the second section provides "that nothing in this act should be held or construed to authorize any increase of the aggregate pay of the said grades, or of the naval service, as now allowed by law." The following comparison will show how closely this provision has been adhered to:—

Captain—old regime	\$204,000
new	\$24,000
Commander—old regime	\$184,000
new	\$20,000
Lieutenant—old regime	\$127,000
new	\$47,500
Total loss by re-organization, in three grades	\$21,750

Thus we see that, neither in efficiency nor economy, has the country been a gainer by the new organization, whilst at the same time it has been effected with a large amount of injustice and individual suffering. Men of the highest moral and professional character have been retired from service, while others notorious for their dissipated habits and inefficiency have been kept on the active list. That many of the latter cases may have occurred from ignorance of the characters of the parties, we are disposed to believe; but we cannot altogether acquit the board of the imputation of partiality, when we find, for the same offense, one officer honorably retired, another furloughed, and another dropped. To aggravate the cruel and arbitrary character of these proceedings, the decisions of the board were conveyed to the victims in the most uncourteous and unfeeling manner. They were notified summarily of their retirement or dismissal, without any reason being assigned for the fact. The common privilege allowed to dismissed servants, of informing them of the grounds of their disgrace, was denied to them—a proceeding for which we find no sort of justification on the part of the department. There is no reason why the country should be less conscientious and courteous towards those who have passed their lives in her service than individual employers. The effect of such treatment on the minds of honorable and high spirited men, with large families involved in their ruin, must have been bitter in the extreme. We question if their feelings of patriotism would have resisted at the moment the test of such a shock.

We have always been the strenuous advocates of naval reform, but we never contemplated the adoption of a measure which violates the principles of our constitution and of justice, weakens instead of imparting strength, adds to the expenses of the country without yielding any adequate return, and inflicts unending suffering upon a large number of deserving families. If Congress cannot cure abuses without creating others of greater magnitude, it is better to let the old evils flourish. We entertain confident hopes, however, that it will not only find its way through the difficulties that environ this question, but that it will discover some means of redressing the grievances that have been created by its last bungling effort of legislation.

The Bookellers at War with the Press—Paid Critics and Salaried Reviewers.

We give elsewhere, to-day, a strong article on the subject of the war which has lately sprung up between a number of book publishers in this city, and certain persons attached to the daily press, who write what are factiously called criticisms upon new publications.

During the administration of President Tyler a large number of nominations for promotion were sent into the Senate, which the latter refused to confirm, and a law was passed limiting the number of officers and seamen in the navy, the latter being fixed at 7,500. The reports of the Secretaries of the Navy have frequently recommended a reduction in the number of captains and commanders, there being more of those grades than the service required. The total number of vessels at sea in 1855, by the Navy Register, is forty-two, and that number cannot be increased without an additional number of seamen. The commissions now issued will make the Navy Register of 1856 contain—

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Total loss by re-organization, in three grades	\$21,750

Thus we see that, neither in efficiency nor economy, has the country been a gainer by the new organization, whilst at the same time it has been effected with a large amount of injustice and individual suffering. Men of the highest moral and professional character have been retired from service, while others notorious for their dissipated habits and inefficiency have been kept on the active list. That many of the latter cases may have occurred from ignorance of the characters of the parties, we are disposed to believe; but we cannot altogether acquit the board of the imputation of partiality, when we find, for the same offense, one officer honorably retired, another furloughed, and another dropped. To aggravate the cruel and arbitrary character of these proceedings, the decisions of the board were conveyed to the victims in the most uncourteous and unfeeling manner. They were notified summarily of their retirement or dismissal, without any reason being assigned for the fact. The common privilege allowed to dismissed servants, of informing them of the grounds of their disgrace, was denied to them—a proceeding for which we find no sort of justification on the part of the department. There is no reason why the country should be less conscientious and courteous towards those who have passed their lives in her service than individual employers. The effect of such treatment on the minds of honorable and high spirited men, with large families involved in their ruin, must have been bitter in the extreme. We question if their feelings of patriotism would have resisted at the moment the test of such a shock.

We have always been the strenuous advocates of naval reform, but we never contemplated the adoption of a measure which violates the principles of our constitution and of justice, weakens instead of imparting strength, adds to the expenses of the country without yielding any adequate return, and inflicts unending suffering upon a large number of deserving families. If Congress cannot cure abuses without creating others of greater magnitude, it is better to let the old evils flourish. We entertain confident hopes, however, that it will not only find its way through the difficulties that environ this question, but that it will discover some means of redressing the grievances that have been created by its last bungling effort of legislation.

The Bookellers at War with the Press—Paid Critics and Salaried Reviewers.

We give elsewhere, to-day, a strong article on the subject of the war which has lately sprung up between a number of book publishers in this city, and certain persons attached to the daily press, who write what are factiously called criticisms upon new publications.

We find this article—part of which we know to be true, and all of which we believe to be founded upon fact—in the official organ of the New York publishers, and have rescued it from that depth of obscurity, for the purpose of saying a word or two upon the general merits of the highly interesting subject upon which it treats.

In the first place, it may be well enough to ask how the publishers happen to have an organ at all; for we have no doubt that nine out of ten men who read new books have, until now, been ignorant of the existence of the hebdomadal from which we quote the *copy* of the so called reviewers. A few months ago the Book Publishers' Association sent a circular to the leading journals requesting to know their lowest terms for advertisements of new publications. One of these circulars was sent to the HERALD, and we offered to take off twenty-five per cent from our regular rates, providing we could have all the advertising. We thought that the discount would be made up by the increased interest of the paper to a very large class of our subscribers who desire the announcements of what is new in the literary world. But the scheme fell through; and it was found impossible to select any one paper, because some of the publishers had a pecuniary interest in other journals, or could be disturbed in some nice little arrangements which they had with certain writers. The publishers then started their circular—which is not often seen out of the trade. It is, undoubtedly, a very useful publication to bookellers; but the public is generally in a state of the

most lamentable ignorance as to its object and its very existence